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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4319

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEES
SELECT REVENUE
SOCIAL SECURITY
TRADE

JOINT ECONOMIC
COMMITTEE

February 7, 2023

The Honorable Doug McKalip
Chief Agricultural Negotiator
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

The Honorable Alexis Taylor
Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Affairs
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20250


Dear Ambassador McKalip and Under Secretary Taylor:

We write today to commend you for your recent statement and continued rejection of Mexico's pending ban on imports of genetically modified (GM) corn. We remain deeply concerned about President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's decree that would terminate imports of biotech corn on January 31, 2024. The announced policy would exacerbate current food insecurity in Mexico by drastically raising prices for corn, basic foods and other critical products derived from corn in the Mexican economy. If necessary, we urge you to fully utilize the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) enforcement mechanism to hold Mexico accountable. Additionally, we request that you fully brief Congress on your consultations with the Mexican Government to date.


Upholding the integrity of USMCA is essential to Texas agriculture, which is directly threatened by Mexico's pending GM corn import ban. As the largest importer of U.S. corn, Mexican grain buyers play a pivotal role in the market for Texas corn. Thus, our state's family farmers would be the first to feel the impact of these proposed measures. According to the U.S. Grains Council, Mexico was the number one purchaser of U.S. corn in the 2021/2022 marketing year, importing over \$5 billion. The proposed import ban would devastate American farmers that are already struggling with increased input, fuel, and shipping costs. American corn producers are currently preparing for the 2023/2024 marketing year and the uncertainty of these restrictive measures is costing our farmers today.

We appreciate you taking a forceful stand on this issue. Without an aggressive response from the United States, similar measures could proliferate in other export markets. If a satisfactory agreement that allows for the seamless export of GM products to Mexico is not reached, we fully support prompt utilization of USMCA's dispute settlement mechanism. We stand ready to partner with you in efforts to protect American farmers' access to export markets in Mexico and around the world.

Sincerely,



Jodey C. Arrington
Member of Congress



Ronny L. Jackson
Member of Congress




Beth Van Duyne
Member of Congress



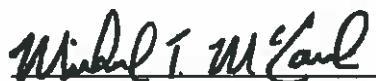
Monica De La Cruz
Member of Congress



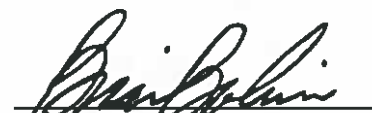
Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



Michael Cloud
Member of Congress



Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Jake Ellzey
Member of Congress